

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A personal messaging system comprising:
a portable device for recording and transmitting a voice message; and
5 a server operative to:
receive said voice message;
extract the identity of a recipient from a predefined portion of said voice
message;
look up said recipient identity in a database associated with the sender of
10 said message in which at least one recipient identity is associated with at least one
destination address;
compose an outgoing message based on said voice message; and
transmit said outgoing message to at least one destination address
associated with said recipient identity in said database.
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2. A system according to claim 1 wherein said portable device is adapted for
wireless communication with a wireless network operator.
3. A system according to claim 2 wherein said wireless network operator is a
20 cellular telephone operator operative to enable data transmission between said portable
device and said server.
4. A system according to claim 1 wherein said portable device is incorporated into
any of a mobile telephone, a pager, a portable computer, and a navigation device.
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5. A system according to claim 1 and further comprising a receiver operative to
receive said outgoing message from said server.
6. A system according to claim 5 wherein said receiver is any of an e-mail client, a
30 voice mailbox, an SMS-capable device, a pager, a fax machine, a telephone, a mobile
telephone.

7. A system according to claim 1 wherein said predefined portion is either of a predefined beginning and a predefined end of said voice message.

5 8. A system according to claim 1 wherein said server is operative to send a confirmation message to said portable device confirming that said outgoing message was sent to said intended recipient.

9. A system according to claim 8 wherein said confirmation message is an
10 alphanumeric message.

10. A system according to claim 1 wherein said portable device comprises:
a keypad for activating said portable device;
a microphone for recording said voice message;
15 a positioning unit for determining the location of said portable device at the time said voice message is recorded;
a processing and control unit for compressing said voice message;
a wireless communicator for transmitting said voice message to said server; and
a display for displaying a confirmation message sent by said server to said
20 portable device confirming that said outgoing message was sent to said intended recipient.

11. A system according to claim 10 wherein the identity of said sender is preprogrammed in said portable device.

25 12. A system according to claim 11 wherein said processing and control unit is operative to combine said sender identity, said sender current location, and said processed voice message into a single message, and convert said single message into a format suitable for data transmission.

30 13. A system according to claim 1 wherein said server comprises:
a message queue for receiving said voice messages;

a speech recognition engine;
a mapping unit;
an outgoing message composer;
an incoming message analyzer operative to:

5 prepare any of said received message for analysis;
 extract the identity of said sender and said sender's current location from
said received message;

 employ said speech recognition engine to extract said recipient identity
from said predefined portion;

10 employ said mapping unit to translate said sender location into
conventional location information; and

 transfer said received message, said sender and recipient identities, said
destination address, the date and time of the creation of said received message, and said
sender location information to said outgoing message composer; and

15 a provisioning and personalization unit including said database, wherein said
database includes user-level information,

 wherein said outgoing message composer is operative to compose an outgoing
message from said information received from said incoming message analyzer in accordance
with at least one predefined message handling rule.

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14. A system according to claim 13 wherein said predefined message handling rule
is a user-level message handling rule.

15. A system according to claim 13 wherein said predefined message handling rule
25 is a system-level message handling rule.

16. A system according to claim 13 and further comprising a dispatcher for sending
said outgoing message to a receiver at said destination address.

30 17. A system according to claim 13 wherein said outgoing message is any of text,
voice, and data.

18. A system according to claim 13 wherein said user-level information includes a personal address book associated with said sender including any of a) a list of recipients along with either of a telephone address and a network address to which messages are to be sent, b) voice samples of recipient names for use with said speech recognition engine to identify said recipients, c) a handling rule for messages, d) a personal phone number, and e) a credit card number.

19. A system according to claim 1 wherein said destination address is either of a telephone number and a network address.

20. A personal messaging method comprising:

receiving a voice message;

extracting the identity of a recipient from a predefined portion of said voice message;

looking up said recipient identity in a database associated with the sender of said message in which at least one recipient identity is associated with at least one destination address;

composing an outgoing message based on said voice message; and

transmitting said outgoing message to at least one destination address associated with said recipient identity in said database.

21. A method according to claim 20 wherein said extracting step comprises extracting said predefined portion from either of a predefined beginning and a predefined end of said voice message.

22. A method according to claim 20 and further comprising sending a confirmation message to said sender confirming that said outgoing message was sent to said intended recipient.

23. A method according to claim 20 and further comprising:

determining the location of said sender at the time said voice message is recorded;

compressing said voice message; and

5 displaying a confirmation message confirming that said outgoing message was sent to said intended recipient.

24. A method according to claim 20 and further comprising determining the identity of said sender.

10 25. A method according to claim 24 and further comprising combining said sender identity, said sender current location, and said processed voice message into a single message, and converting said single message into a format suitable for data transmission.

15 26. A method according to claim 20 and further comprising:
prepare said received message for analysis;
extracting the identity of said sender and said sender's current location from said received message;

employing a speech recognition engine to extract said recipient identity from said predefined portion;

20 translating said sender location into conventional location information;
and

composing an outgoing message from said message, identity, and location information in accordance with at least one predefined message handling rule.